

**CCA #6****Eel River****DESCRIPTION**

The Eel River flows from southeastern Mendocino County through southern Humboldt County to the Eel River Delta, 10 miles south of Humboldt Bay, with approximately 8 river miles within the coastal zone. Municipal, agricultural, fish and wildlife habitat (including habitat for threatened or endangered salmonids), and recreational uses are among the significant uses of this watershed.

Activities which may impair water quality in this watershed include: illegal waste disposal; vehicle and railroad maintenance yard operations; herbicide application; gravel extraction; timber harvesting; road building, operation, and maintenance activities; dairy operations; automotive wrecking yard activities; wood treatment facilities; publicly owned treatment works; grazing; and failing septic systems.



Mouth of the Eel River  
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For more photos, visit:  
[www.californiacoastline.org](http://www.californiacoastline.org).

**REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION**

The Eel River was one of the original CCAs identified in 1995 as an **impaired waterbody that flows into an estuary**.

**POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS**

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	<u>2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants</u> TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)		<u>Other Pollutants</u>			
Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	<u>Sediment</u>	<u>Temperature</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>?</u>	
Eel River, Middle Main Fork ▲	▲ Medium	▲ Medium				
Eel River Delta ■	■ Medium	■ Medium				
Van Duzen River •	• Medium					
Salt River ♦						
Other Waterbodies □						
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
Agriculture						a, b, c, d, h, q
➤ Range Grazing	▲ ■ •					h, q
Forestry (Silviculture)	▲ ■ •					a, c, d, f, i, l, o, q
➤ Harvesting & Restoration	▲ •					
➤ Logging Roads	▲ •					i
Urban Areas						a, c, d, f, p, q
➤ Land Development	▲ •					
➤ Construction	▲ •					
Hydromodification	▲					a, c, d, j, k, m, p, q

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➤ Streambank Modification	▲	▲ •				
<b>Potential Sources of Pollutants, continued</b>	<u>Sediment</u>	<u>Temperature</u>	?	?	?	<b>Efforts to Address Pollutants</b>
➤ Upstream Impoundment		▲				
<b>Wetlands &amp; Riparian Areas</b>						a, c, e, p, q
➤ Removal of Riparian Vegetation	▲	▲ ■ •				g, k
➤ Drainage/Filling of Wetlands		▲				
<b>Erosion/Siltation</b>	▲	▲ •				a, b, c, e, g, l, m, n, p
<b>Channel Erosion</b>		•				a, c, e
<b>Habitat Modification</b>	▲	▲ •				a, c, e, j, o, p
<b>Unspecified Nonpoint Source</b>	■	■				a, c, e
<b>Natural Sources</b>		•				a, c, e

### MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

<b>a)</b>	<b>Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Allocations</b>			<a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast">www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast</a>
	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, & North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)	David Smith (EPA), or Holly Lundborg (RWQCB)	(415) 972-3416 (707) 576-2609	<a href="mailto:smith.davidw@epa.gov">smith.davidw@epa.gov</a> <a href="mailto:hlundborg@waterboards.ca.gov">hlundborg@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
	➤ Provides a quantitative assessment of water quality problems, contributing sources of pollution, and pollutant load reductions or control actions needed to restore and protect the beneficial uses of an individual impaired waterbody.			
<b>b)</b>	<b>Interagency Agricultural Water Quality Partnerships</b>			
	Humboldt County Resource Conservation District & State Coastal Conservancy	Curtis Ihle	(707) 444-9708 (510) 286-1015	<a href="mailto:curtisihle@yahoo.com">curtisihle@yahoo.com</a>
	➤ Minimize controversy between agricultural community & water quality regulators; address farmers' economic considerations with compliance; helps with BMPs on dairy/cattle ranches; install dairy farm demonstration projects.			
<b>c)</b>	<b>Watershed Analyses (1996)</b>			
	Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game; U.S. Forest Service; and U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Resource Area (BLM)	Dave Fuller, BLM	(707) 825-2315	<a href="mailto:dfuller@ca.blm.gov">dfuller@ca.blm.gov</a>
	➤ Watershed restoration, temperature, and water quality issues.			
<b>d)</b>	<b>Timber Harvest Plan Review</b>			
	North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	Mark Neely	(707) 576-2689	<a href="mailto:mneely@waterboards.ca.gov">mneely@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
	➤ Responsible for regulating waste discharges from timber harvesting activities that could affect the quality and beneficial uses of waters in the North Coast Region.			
<b>e)</b>	<b>Erosion Control Projects</b>			<a href="http://www.erwig.org/">http://www.erwig.org/</a>
	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group	Ruth Goodfield & Bill Matson	(707) 725-4317	<a href="mailto:info@ERWIG.org">info@ERWIG.org</a>
	➤ A non-profit restoration group that does projects and acts as project managers for smaller landowner groups, focusing on erosion control through bank stabilization, road upgrading and decommissioning, and revegetation.			
<b>f)</b>	<b>Friends of the Eel River</b>			<a href="http://www.eelriver.org/">http://www.eelriver.org/</a>
		Nadananda	(707) 923 2146	<a href="mailto:foer@eelriver.org">foer@eelriver.org</a>

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➤ Mission is to restore wild and scenic Eel River and its tributaries to a natural state of abundance; the River is suffering from degrading effects of logging, road building, timber extraction, population growth, and gravel mining.			
<b>g)</b>	<b>Eel River Cooperative Sediment Reduction</b>	<a href="http://www.carcd.org/wisp/humboldt/">http://www.carcd.org/wisp/humboldt/</a>	
Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (RCD)	Curtis Ihle	(707) 444-9708	<a href="mailto:curtisihle@yahoo.com">curtisihle@yahoo.com</a>
➤ Reduce erosion and sediment delivery to stream systems; improve and enhance riparian habitat; and eventually improve water temperatures for anadromous fish, by working with interested landowners and the other cooperators.			
<b>h)</b>	<b>Humboldt Agricultural Phase II/III</b>	<a href="http://www.carcd.org/wisp/humboldt/">http://www.carcd.org/wisp/humboldt/</a>	
Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (RCD)	Curtis Ihle	(707) 444-9708	<a href="mailto:curtisihle@yahoo.com">curtisihle@yahoo.com</a>
➤ Complete the Humboldt/ Del Norte Soil Survey by 2008; provide technical assistance to landowners to identify best soil and water conservation/management practices; District's Sustainable Agriculture Committee; public education.			
<b>i)</b>	<b>Van Duzen Watershed Ranch Road Sediment Reduction</b>		
Yager/Van Duzen Environmental Stewards	Dina J. Moore	(707) 496-3570	<a href="mailto:djmoore@humboldt1.com">djmoore@humboldt1.com</a>
➤ Project to implement results of a recently completed comprehensive erosion source assessment and inventory. Sources of road erosion on private ranch roads will be addressed through on-the-ground treatments.			
<b>j)</b>	<b>California Conservation Corps Salmon Restoration Program (2003-2004)</b>	<a href="http://www.ccc.ca.gov/ccweb/SPECIAL/SRP/srp.htm">http://www.ccc.ca.gov/ccweb/SPECIAL/SRP/srp.htm</a>	
California Conservation Corps	Robert Frechou	(707) 725-5106	<a href="mailto:bobf@ccc.ca.gov">bobf@ccc.ca.gov</a>
➤ Improve more than 28 stream miles by modifying several fish passage barriers, installing at least 70 fish habitat structures, planting over 60,000 trees, and erecting 10,000 ft. of livestock exclusion fencing.			
<b>k)</b>	<b>Eel River Watershed Improvement Group, Organizational Support (2004-06)</b>	<a href="http://www.nwwatershed.ca.gov/">http://www.nwwatershed.ca.gov/</a>	
Eel River Watershed Improvement Group	Scott Downie	(707) 725-1070	<a href="mailto:sdownie@dfg.ca.gov">sdownie@dfg.ca.gov</a> <a href="mailto:info@ERWIG.org">info@ERWIG.org</a>
➤ Improve water quality, spawning and rearing habitat of salmon and steelhead throughout the Eel River system by providing 2 Watershed Coordinator positions, constructing instream habitat structures, and stabilizing stream banks.			
<b>l)</b>	<b>Hollow Tree Creek Restoration Project Phase 2</b>	<a href="http://www.tu.org/index.asp">http://www.tu.org/index.asp</a>	
Trout Unlimited	David Katz	(707) 543-5877	<a href="mailto:dkatz@tu.org">dkatz@tu.org</a>
➤ The implementation of upslope and instream restoration prescriptions to reduce road-related sediment and to improve instream habitat for salmonid species in the following sub-basins within the Hollow Tree Creek watershed.			
<b>m)</b>	<b>Sediment Reduction Project</b>	<a href="http://www.treesfoundation.org/cgi-priv/Publications.pl?function=article&amp;page_id=182">http://www.treesfoundation.org/cgi-priv/Publications.pl?function=article&amp;page_id=182</a>	
Seely Creek Watershed Association		(707) 923-2502	<a href="mailto:girlgeorje@asis.com">girlgeorje@asis.com</a>
➤ Minimize the potential delivery of approx. 13,000 cubic yards of sediment into the headwaters of Seely Creek., by addressing 29 sites including pond stabilization, road decommissioning, and culvert replacement.			
<b>n)</b>	<b>Eel River Salmon Restoration Project, Leggett Creek Road and Pond Decommissioning Project (2003-2004)</b>		
Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife & Wetlands Restoration Association	Mitch Farro	(707) 839-5664	<a href="mailto:pcfwwra@reninet.com">pcfwwra@reninet.com</a>
➤ Decommission and stabilize the road and associated pond, construct three crossings, plant seven thousand trees on the project site and adjacent areas, and return the drainage to its natural state.			
<b>o)</b>	<b>Salmon Creek Upslope Sediment Reduction Project (2003-2004)</b>		
Jack Monschke Watershed Management	Jack Monschke	(707) 496-3027	

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➤ Improve salmonid spawning and rearing habitat by lowering sediment delivery from upslope sources in the Salmon Creek Watershed.				
<b>p)</b>	<b>Salt River Watershed Assessment Report (February 2005)</b>			<a href="http://www.nwatershed.ca.gov/">http://www.nwatershed.ca.gov/</a>
	Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Coastal Watershed Planning & Assessment Program; and partners	Scott Downie	(707) 725-1070	<a href="mailto:sdownie@dfg.ca.gov">sdownie@dfg.ca.gov</a>
➤ Multi-disciplinary, systematic, basin-level assessment includes analyses of factors limiting or benefiting salmonids in freshwater habitat, in context of watershed processes that alter stream habitat, water quantity and quality.				
<b>q)</b>	<b>Wiyot Tribe Water Pollution Control Program</b>			<a href="http://www.wiyot.com/water_pollution.htm">http://www.wiyot.com/water_pollution.htm</a>
	Wiyot Tribe	Andrea Davis	(707) 733-5055	<a href="mailto:andrea@wiyot.us">andrea@wiyot.us</a>
➤ To assess the Tribe's water resources, identify threats to water quality, and monitor and protect water quality. Did Preliminary Water Quality Assessment, and created a Non-Point Source Assessment and Management Plan.				

### REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ City of Fortuna Planning Dept.	<a href="http://www.sunnyfortuna.com/">http://www.sunnyfortuna.com/</a>	Liz Shorey	(707) 725-7600	<a href="mailto:shorey@ci.fortuna.ca.us">shorey@ci.fortuna.ca.us</a>
➤ City of Ferndale, Planner	<a href="http://www.ferndale-ca.gov.org/">http://www.ferndale-ca.gov.org/</a>	Nancy Kaytis-Slocum	(707) 786-4224	<a href="mailto:cityplanner@ci.ferndale.ca.us">cityplanner@ci.ferndale.ca.us</a>
➤ City of Rio Dell, Planning Dept.	<a href="http://www.riodellcity.com/">http://www.riodellcity.com/</a>	Michael Daly	(707) 764-3532	<a href="mailto:pwd@riodellcity.com">pwd@riodellcity.com</a>
➤ Humboldt County, Planning & Building Dept.	<a href="http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/">http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/</a>	Tom Hofweber	(707) 268-3738	<a href="mailto:thofweber@co.humboldt.ca.us">thofweber@co.humboldt.ca.us</a>
➤ Humboldt County, Public Works Dept.	<a href="http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/">http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/</a>	Ann Glubczynski	(707) 268-2687	<a href="mailto:Ann.Glubczynski@co.humboldt.ca.us">Ann.Glubczynski@co.humboldt.ca.us</a>
➤ Table Bluff Reservation, Wiyot Tribe	<a href="http://www.wiyot.com/environmental.htm">http://www.wiyot.com/environmental.htm</a>	Andrea Davis	(707) 733-5055	<a href="mailto:andrea@wiyot.us">andrea@wiyot.us</a>
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	<a href="http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html">http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html</a>	Vanessa Metz	(707) 445-7873	<a href="mailto:vmetz@coastal.ca.gov">vmetz@coastal.ca.gov</a>
➤ North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, NPS Complaint Response	<a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/</a>	Diana Henriouille-Henry	(707) 576-2350	<a href="mailto:dhenriouille-henry@waterboards.ca.gov">dhenriouille-henry@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
➤ State Water Resources Control Board	<a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/</a>	Heidi Hall	(916) 323-2871	<a href="mailto:hhall@waterboards.ca.gov">hhall@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	<a href="http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/">http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/</a>	Karyn Gear	(510) 286-4171	<a href="mailto:kgear@scc.ca.gov">kgear@scc.ca.gov</a>
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Coastal Watershed Planning & Assessment Program	<a href="http://www.nwatershed.ca.gov/">http://www.nwatershed.ca.gov/</a>	Scott Downie	(707) 725-1070	<a href="mailto:sdownie@dfg.ca.gov">sdownie@dfg.ca.gov</a>
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Region 1	<a href="http://www.dfg.ca.gov/">http://www.dfg.ca.gov/</a>	John Mello	(707) 441-5755	<a href="mailto:jmello@dfg.ca.gov">jmello@dfg.ca.gov</a>
➤ Caltrans, Stormwater Management	<a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/">http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/</a>	Alex Arevalo	(707) 445-6600	<a href="mailto:Alex_Arevalo@dot.ca.gov">Alex_Arevalo@dot.ca.gov</a>
➤ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge	<a href="http://pacific.fws.gov/humboldt/bay/">http://pacific.fws.gov/humboldt/bay/</a>	Eric Nelson	(707) 733-5406	<a href="mailto:Eric_T_Nelson@fws.gov">Eric_T_Nelson@fws.gov</a>